



---

# Drought Information for the Agricultural Community

---

Fact Sheet

8/2005

While droughts inconvenience everyone in the area affected, they threaten the livelihood of those in the agricultural community. A reduction of one bushel per acre in soybean yields reduces Missouri net farm income by about \$25 million. A similar per-acre reduction in corn yields results in a \$5 million decrease.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources coordinates the efforts of the Missouri Drought Assessment Committee (DAC). The DAC is group of 14 state and federal agencies that coordinates planning for, assessment of, and mitigation of drought in Missouri. The DAC is guided by the [Missouri Drought Plan](#).

The Missouri departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture maintain Web sites containing up-to-date information on drought conditions. These sites are located at [www.dnr.mo.gov/geology/droughtupdate.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/geology/droughtupdate.htm) and [www.mda.mo.gov/drought/index.html](http://www.mda.mo.gov/drought/index.html) and contain the latest drought maps, recent news, Missouri Drought Assessment Committee updates, disaster assistance information, national drought monitoring data, the drought outlook and reports on current conditions.

It also includes links to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Web pages that contain helpful drought information, including an interactive map for county-by-county information (<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=mo&agency=fsa>). Other links include USDA's drought assistance Web page at [http://disaster.usda.gov/drought\\_jump.htm](http://disaster.usda.gov/drought_jump.htm). The page includes information on the federal drought assistance programs listed below.

## **USDA Secretarial Disaster Designations - Database**

*Farm Service Agency*

Search the USDA Secretarial Disaster Designation database, to determine if your state or county has been declared a disaster area.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=22&z=1>

## **Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)**

*Farm Service Agency*

ECP shares with agricultural producers the cost of rehabilitating eligible farmlands damaged by natural disaster. During severe drought, ECP also provides emergency water assistance - both for livestock and for existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=10&z=1>



## **Emergency Haying and Grazing Assistance**

*Farm Service Agency*

Emergency haying and grazing of certain Conservation Reserve Program acreage may be made available in areas suffering from weather-related natural disaster.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=2&z=1>

## **Emergency Loan Assistance (EM)**

*Farm Service Agency*

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=1&z=1>

## **Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process**

*Farm Service Agency*

Agricultural-related disasters are quite common. One-half to two-thirds of the counties in the United States have been designated as disaster areas in each of the past several years.

Producers may apply for low-interest emergency (EM) loans in counties named as primary or contiguous under a disaster designation.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=27&z=1>

## **Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)**

*Farm Service Agency*

USDA's Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=23&z=1>

## **Crop Policies**

*Risk Management Agency*

Buying a crop insurance policy is one risk management option. Producers should always carefully consider how a policy will work in conjunction with their other risk management strategies to insure the best possible outcome each crop year. Crop insurance agents and other agri-business specialists in the private and public sectors can assist farmers in developing a good management plan.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=6&z=1>

## **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)**

*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of flood plain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=9&z=1>

## **Defending Against Drought**

*Natural Resources Conservation Service*

With good planning, good management, and good information, farms and ranches can reduce the impacts of drought. The Department of Agriculture's Joint Agricultural Weather Facility and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS), National Water and Climate Center, along with the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Interior, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, helps people prepare for and deal with drought.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=4&z=1>

## **Tree Assistance Program (TAP)**

*Farm Service Agency*

USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Tree Assistance Program (TAP) provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists to replace eligible trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. TAP was authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=29&z=1>

## **2004 Nonfat Dry Milk Livestock Feed Assistance**

*Farm Service Agency*

U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide surplus USDA stocks of nonfat dry milk to livestock producers in areas hardest hit by continuing drought.

<http://disaster.usda.gov/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=19&z=1>

## **For More Information**

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
1-800-361-4827 or (573) 751-3443

[www.dnr.mo.gov/geology/droughtupdate.htm](http://www.dnr.mo.gov/geology/droughtupdate.htm)

Missouri Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 630  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630  
(573) 526-0837

[www.mda.mo.gov/drought/index.html](http://www.mda.mo.gov/drought/index.html)